GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6628
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2002
POPULARISATION OF SOLAR WATER HEATERS
CHANDRAKANT BHAURAO KHAIRE

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are trying to popularise solar water heaters;

(b) if so, the details of the subsidy given for such heaters;

(c) the way in which the Government propose to improve the technology and also make easy the installation and other details of such solar water heaters;

(d) the details of steps proposed to re-design such equipment to save conventional forms of energy;

(e) whether the Government propose to instal such water heaters in any State during the current year against payment.

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN)

(a)&(b): Yes Sir. In order to popularise solar water heaters, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is implementing a soft loan programme with interest subsidy through the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) anddesignated public sector banks. The interest rates at which the end users of different categories can get loans under the scheme are given in Annexure I.

(c)&(d): The Ministry supports R&D projects to improve the technology, design andreliability of solar thermal systems. National standards have been established for solar collectors used in water heaters by the Bureau of Indian Standards.These standards are reviewed and updated taking into account improvements in designs and materials. Six Regional Test Centres havebeen set up in different parts of the country for testing and providing technical back up services to manufacturers and users. Training programmes in the installation and maintenance of solar water heating systems are also supported.

(e)&(f): A target of 50000 sq.m. of collector area for solar water heaters has been fixed for the current financial year under the interest subsidy scheme. A model regulation / bye-law for mandatory installation of solar assisted water heating systems in functional buildings has already been drafted and circulated to the state governments with the request to incorporate the same in the building bye-laws. A few State Governments have made installation of solar water heaters mandatory in government functional buildings. The Ministry is also implementing a special demonstration scheme for supporting the installation of solar water heating systems in the North-Eastern states, islands and Jammu & Kashmir.

(g): Does not arise.

Annexure I

Annexure referred to in reply to Parts(a)&(b) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 6628 for 9.5.2002 regarding Popularisation of Solar Water Heaters.

Solar Thermal Energy Programme

Rates of Interest under the Interest Subsidy Scheme

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Technology   Implementing Organization Category of end-user Rate of
          Interest
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Solar water heating system

(up to 2000 litres capacity) Banks Individual,institution, association, small business establishment 5% @ (to end user)

Solar water heating system

(up to 2000 litres capacity) IREDA (through financial intermediaries). IREDA provides loans to financial intermediaries @ 2.5% rate of interest Individual, institution, association, small business establishment 5% @ (to end user)

Solar water heating system

(any capacity), Solar air heating system, solar desalination system, solar swimming pool IREDA (direct or through financial intermediaries) @@ Institutions, trusts, charitable organizations etc. (non-profit organizations) 5% @

Solar water heating system

(any capacity), solar air heating system, solar desalination system, solar swimming pool IREDA (direct or through financial intermediaries) @@ Industry, hotels and other commercial organizations (profit making) 8.3%

@ End-users (other than individuals) will have to give an undertaking that no depreciation allowance will be claimed under income tax rules.
@@ The financial intermediaries may charge a spread up to 4% over the rate charged from them by IREDA.